

The Omaha Bee.

Published every morning, except Sunday. The only Monday morning daily.

TERMS BY MAIL—
One Year, \$10.00 | Three Months, \$3.00
Six Months, 5.00 | One Month, 1.00

THE WEEKLY BEE, published every Wednesday.

TERMS POST PAID—
One Year, \$12.00 | Three Months, 3.50
Six Months, 6.00 | One Month, 1.25
AMERICAN NEWS COMPANY, Sole Agents
Newsdealers in the United States.

CORRESPONDENCE—All Communications relating to News and Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor or THE BEE.

BUSINESS LETTERS—All Business Letters and Remittances should be addressed to THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, OMAHA. Drafts, Checks and Postoffice Orders to be made payable to the order of the Company.

The BEE PUBLISHING CO., Props.
E. ROSEWATER Editor

New Orleans is preparing on a grand scale for the carnival of fun. Meantime Atlanta revels in a carnival of crime.

A proposition is pending in the house as an amendment to the army bill, to abolish the pay masters department and transfer its duties to the quartermasters. That bill will never pass the senate. Gen. Logan's son-in-law holds a commission as pay master.

The poor department clerks at Washington take a rather gloomy view of Pendleton's civil service reform scheme. They know that whatever civil service reform measure may be adopted, they are almost sure to go out if the democrats win in 1884, and they feel confident that they can stay if the republicans carry the day.

The cost of the government printing office last year was \$2,635,000, which is \$419,000 more than ever before. Of printing of slush, much and gush there seems to be no end.

About \$300,000 squandered for slush, much and gush has been voted away at the instance of our Val for his pet bureau of agriculture.

The civil service reform bill, as it finally passed the senate, is a rather hazy measure. It applies only to employees in the departments at Washington who hold minor positions. They are to be subjected to a good deal of red tape, but the heads of bureaus and men of rank and responsibility will continue, as heretofore, to hold their places as partisan rewards and through personal favoritism, whether they are fit or unfit.

If Dakota succeeds in getting in the union Montana will rap for admission within the next two years. When the census of 1880 was taken, which credited the territory with over 40,000 population, Montana polled 14,000 votes. This year there were 23,312 votes polled and the present population is computed at not less than 75,000. It is confidently predicted that the Northern Pacific will bring 100,000 people into Montana next year, which would make a marvelous change.

The imperial house of Hapsburg, which has ruled the empire of Austria during the last six centuries, is holding a jubilee all over the empire over their six hundredth anniversary of its dominion. The oldest, if not the most despotic, dynasty in Europe has certainly had a marvelous existence. It has survived many bloody wars and revolutions, outlived family feuds and assassins' plots and braved famine, flood and flame through the revolving cycles of time. Beginning its feudal despotism two hundred years before the discovery of America, this powerful and prolific family have during that period occupied the thrones not only of Austria but of half of Europe. For more than twenty centuries the house of Hapsburg has held imperial sway over the destiny of millions upon millions of people. Up to a comparatively recent period the Hapsburgs were at the head of the German empire, and if it had not been for the Prussian ascendancy which began at Sadowa, the Hapsburgs would still be at the head of the German empire.

Is there any branch in the public service that needs to be reformed it is our consular and foreign diplomatic service. A great majority of American consuls are utterly unfit to transact the business which as commercial agents of the United States they are required to carry on. Ninety-nine out of a hundred are cross roads politicians and ward bumpers who do not know anything of the language or customs and manners of the people among whom they are located. Our representatives at the various foreign courts have for years been the laughing stock of all nations, because most of them do not know the very first principles of diplomacy or diplomatic usage. It is this class of officers from whom a special training should be required just as we train soldiers and sailors in the schools at West Point and Annapolis. It is in the consular and diplomatic service where appointments should be at the lowest station and promotion should be made from the ranks of those who are specially trained for this service. But that sort of a civil service reform has not been thought of at Washington.

REFORM IS NECESSARY.

Six years ago the democratic party held a national convention at St. Louis which adopted a platform in which every plank began with the sentence, "Reform is necessary." The sum and substance of this declaration was that reform was necessary everywhere in the public service and a democratic administration was necessary to bring about the necessary reform. The democratic platform of 1876 was a good deal like the Moslem credo, which begins and ends with, "The Lord is Lord and Mohammed is his prophet."

The demand for reform still exists, and the clamor of the democracy to administer reform in their own way is unabated. If the democratic party had captured the presidency in 1882, instead of merely electing a majority of the lower house of congress, they might have been in a condition to give the country the kind of reform which they think is necessary to its salvation. With them as with all the parties that have been before and after them, reform necessary simply means change, that is, replacing one set of office-holders that profess a certain political creed with office-seekers that profess the opposite creed. Such reform is always necessary for the out, and it is the only reform upon which they can bank without investing a large amount of capital. Reform is still a stern necessity for the Democratic party, and they have been clamoring for it with the zeal of a bigot. But when it comes to applying the change they have been clamoring for, before the Democratic party has come into power, reform is a horse of a different color.

Mr. Pendleton as the head of the democratic reform association expects to become the chief administrator of the default republican corpse two years hence. With an assurance that would do credit to Ben Butler, Mr. Pendleton flouted his civil service reform bill under the noses of the republicans as a rebuke for their political offenses. But Mr. Pendleton had not consulted the temper of his democratic colleagues, who were not in favor of administering civil reform through the republican party. They could see no advantage to be gained over their adversaries nor hope of reward for their hungry followers. They fell upon Pendleton's civil service reform hobby, and almost tore it to tatters, but the republicans bravely came to the rescue of Pendleton's pet and saved it from the wrath of its friends. The republican fox was bound to head off the democratic wolf.

Congress is about to make some important changes in the income of certain judicial officers. Among these the clerk of the United States supreme court is the most prominent. Under the present system the clerk of the supreme court has an income from fees of over \$25,000 a year, while the chief justice of the United States has only a salary of \$10,000. It is proposed to make a fixed salary for the clerk of the United States supreme court and turn all the fees back into the United States treasury. This would be eminently proper. It is a rule which should be generally followed in all cases, in fact, and there can be but one class of offices in which it can be wise to allow the fees to the officer for his compensation, this being the class of offices in which the volume of the business depends largely or entirely upon the personal industry of the incumbent. Where the public must go to a certain official for the transaction of certain business the compensation ought to be fixed and definite, the fees, if in excess of a reasonable compensation, going to the government and not to the officer.

This is a rule that would apply also to our state courts. Beginning with the district court and ending with the supreme court. It is a glaring injustice that the clerk of our district court should have double the income of the judge that presides over the court, and if report is correct the clerk of the supreme court of Nebraska has almost as large an income from his fees as the sum total paid to the supreme court in salaries.

VALENTINE'S home organ at West Point is very indignant over Senator Van Wyck's attempt to protect settlers that laid out a town near the Fort Niobrara reservation in their legitimate rights. The insolent West Point jobber assails the senator in the following manner:

Grandmother Van Wyck is very busy sweeping the cobwebs from the skies. The last thing that this antiquated relic of New York Democracy did was to try and place a stumbling block in the way of the Sioux City & Pacific extension. It would certainly be a pleasant relief to a tired constituency if Van Wyck would cease his smelling around trying to find something going wrong, and do something for the benefit of the state.

"Grandmother Van Wyck" is also getting too lively for the boy congressmen. "This antiquated relic of New York democracy," as Val's organ stigmatizes him, knows more when he is asleep than Valentine ever will know when he is wide awake, should he reach the age of Methuselah. It may have been a high crime for the senator to hail from New York. He ought to have been raised among the

cotton or bass woods on Prairie creek, like Val. But, barring this grave crime we take it that the senator had a perfect right to enquire why the Sioux City & Pacific railroad invaded the Fort Niobrara reservation without authority of law. Possibly the senators constituents may pardon him for nosing around trying to find something going wrong, if by so doing he exhibits fidelity to the interests of the people he represents. Right heretofore remark that a senator is expected to do his duty toward the people, regardless of his political affiliations. It is his duty to make inquiry into any infraction of their rights, even if the Sioux City railroad company was chairman of the republican state central committee.

"HERE WE ARE AGAIN."

"Here we are again," as Barnum's clown shouted as he began chalking the soles of the bare back rider. Every time the legislature convenes in Nebraska, they are beset by scientific quacks, who want to make a geological survey at the expense of the tax payers. These humbugs are all the time overflowing with briny brains like the briny artesian well on the public square at Lincoln.

It is so much easier for a man to know all that is going on in the bowels of the earth than it is to know what may be found on the surface. Everybody that has ever looked into the recitation room of a one-horse college can prate by the hour about the precision of the equinoxes, the paleontological types of extinct organic forms, the hypogean action, cretaceous rocks, silurian tracts, metamorphic rocks, the pliocene, miocene and eocene successions, the primordial and cambrian strata, and finally the posttertiary pleistocene period.

All this of course will mystify the average granger into the belief that the man who flings about him such ten syllable names must know how to locate coal, iron, kaolin and other useful and valuable substances. As a matter of fact most of these pretenders would not know a piece of iron ore when they see it and could not tell kaolin from a lump of chalk.

During the past ten years bills for a geological survey of Nebraska have been introduced and pushed by a lobby of scientific quacks, who want to explore the state treasury for several thousand dollars in hard cash. So far every legislature has had sense enough to defeat these schemes, and confine their benevolence to measures of more practical benefit. We expect, of course, that the same old bill will put in an appearance, and it will be urged with the same persistence. We hope, however, the legislature will lose no time and squander no money upon the proposed exploration of the bowels of the earth. If there is any surplus money in the treasury before they adjourn that is not otherwise appropriated, they will have better use for it.

The Pittsburg sheet iron manufacturers have worked up a scheme to induce congress to double the duty on tin plate. There is no excuse whatever for such high-handed imposition. Tin plate enters very largely into domestic and general use in the shape of roofing, tinware, cans and boxes, so that an advance in the tariff on tin plate would materially affect every community. Tin is a raw material which is not produced in this country, and the attempt to increase the rate is simply a selfish scheme to benefit a few men at the expense of the whole country.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The reappointment of the congressional districts of Maine is now under discussion among the leading politicians of that state.

In 1868 the present governor-elect of Kansas was the reputed author of the plank in the democratic platform of that state opposing negro suffrage.

The average majority for the four republican congressmen in Maine, elected on a general ticket, is over 500. It will do them no harm to remember that Maine is where Mr. Blaine lives.

Sheridan Shook thinks the best republican ticket to win next time will be "Ben" Harrison and A. B. Corbell. Harrison protests that the temple-humping presidential marble never has builded in his bonnet.

The official returns in Pennsylvania show a plurality of 40,388 for Pattison, the democratic candidate for governor, and about 30,000 for Elliott, the democratic candidate for congressman-at-large. It is said that something like 10,000 republicans voted for Pattison as the surest means of ending the boss rule of the Cameron dynasty.

Senator Harris, of Tennessee, has an uncomfortable lively fight on his hands in his effort to secure a re-election. There are rumors of combinations against him which, if true, will make his return to the senate an impossibility. His bitterest opponent is named Savage, and he evidently means to make good his title to the name by beginning a fierce onslaught upon Mr. Harris. The senatorial fight will doubtless have some influence upon the settlement of the state debt.

Gen. Chalmers, if he gets into the next congress, will feel like a "Jone, Jone creature." Neither party seems to care about burdening itself with the responsibility of keeping him out or of aiding him with his after he is in. The democrats have a majority large enough without his vote, and his support would be of no use to the republicans. The democratic papers urge that he be given his seat and that the party then wash its hands of him. And that will probably be the course pursued.

Gen. Joseph A. Wheeler, the noted Confederate cavalryman, was nominated by acclamation for the Forty-seventh congress from the Eighth Alabama district. He is, to fill the vacancy caused by the recent death of William Lowe. The irony of events is apparent in this. General Wheeler was elected to the Forty-seventh congress and took his seat. The republicans turned him out, giving the seat to Mr. Lowe. That gentleman soon afterwards died and now General Wheeler will return, practically without opposition, to

complete the term to which he will have been twice apparently elected.

The recent five weeks' session of the Georgia legislature did not accomplish much work. Its results are summarized as follows: Two United States senators have been elected. Judges of several state circuits have been appointed, and the appropriation and tax bills have been passed. Governor Brown's donation of \$50,000 to the State University has been refused. The assembly has not touched the question of readjusting the state, nor has the jury bill been brought forward as expected. The capital question remains in statu quo, and so do most of the questions in which there is much interest.

The Ohio republicans will be in no want of candidates for the gubernatorial nomination next year. It will need, evidently, but a little pushing to bring into the field every party candidate for congress who was defeated last October. Attorney General Johnson has been generally looked upon as the man booked for the place, and he would doubtless make a strong head for the ticket. But within a week past an entirely new name has been mentioned. This is Judge Jacob Ambler, whose work on the national tariff commission has brought him into prominence. He is the author of the comprehensive bill reported by the commission to reform and reduce the tariff, and should congress adopt his work it is claimed that it will make him the rising man for next spring's republican convention, and that, while he will have this boom, he will have no points for attack.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE.

The president, in his message, calls the attention of congress to the necessity for the passage of a law to regulate commerce, and speaks of the want of healthful competition between roads, and of the injustice of "discriminations," &c.

The absolute necessity for a law to regulate these and other wrongs that powerful railroad corporations are inflicting on the community, is apparent to all, and it is probable that congress will act on the subject. But what will be the character of its action? Will it pass laws that will protect the public, or will those laws protect the offenders? From the cropping out of the feelings of this congress heretofore, we fear that their sympathies are not with the people.

The Updegraff bill we consider as but a "feeler," a finger on the public pulse, especially on that of congress. True, it did not become a law, but at the same time it did not draw out the fierce opposition that such a measure deserves at the hands of congress.

That bill (if we have seen a correct summary of its strong points) asks for the appointment by the president of a commission to fix a schedule of rates for transportation on all the railways in the country; to enact restrictions on "pooling," "discriminations," &c., and to affix penalties for the violations of the rules or laws it has established or enacted; and also the commission to be clothed with power to sit as a judiciary or cases involving a charge of violating the rules or laws that this commission itself had enacted; and finally, to have authority to command the executive officers of the outside government to enforce its decrees.

We say the outside government, for such a law would create a government within a government. The inside institution is to have a separate legislature and a separate judiciary, neither of them chosen by the people, and indirectly responsible to them, but to be appointed by the chief magistrate, and accountable to him for the faithful discharge of their duties. The power to enact national or federal laws is delegated to congress with the sanction of the president, under certain limitations. That power they can exercise, but they cannot delegate it to others. They have no more right to authorize a commission to legislate than any other similar number of citizens have to do so. But as to the manner of selecting that commission: The direct voice of the people in naming this commission is ignored, and they are in no manner to be the representatives of the popular will. But considering, if you please, the president as the representative of the people, this commission will only represent the president.

His views will control their action. Hence they will be but the representatives of a representative of the people—but the shadow of a shadow, and so far removed from the people that the strongest features of public sentiment will be lost in the distance.

Take the average president for the last fifteen years, or for the coming years, and what influence would be brought to bear on him to influence his action in selecting this commission?

In the passage of laws by congress that effect railroad interests, the halls of the capital are thronged with an army of railroad presidents, directors and attorneys, together with their legions of camp followers, all working by night and by day, by flattery, by threats or by corruption to influence an action favorable to the corporations.

The same army of corruptionists will surround the president to secure the appointment of commissioners who will favor the roads. In addition to this army of railroad men that will besiege the throne there will be an auxiliary force in that band of political janizaries that hang around the capital, and are ever ready to sell their services, men who would as readily work to enslave a people as to free them, as readily to destroy the republic as to perpetuate it. And they are by no means a poor estimate of an insignificant force, but a body of opulent, drilled and influential courtiers, men who have gained wealth, notoriety and power by engineering injurious bills through congress, and by securing lucrative appointments for applicants who were destitute of merits, but perfectly willing to divide the plunder. These janizaries, by feasting and wincing members of congress, and attorneys, bring in help from outside of their own ranks to aid in influencing the appointing power. This commission system will be a "God send" to these courtiers, for the monopolists will lavish money with a princely hand rather than have an honest board of commissioners appointed.

And then comes in a third power to work in behalf of the monopolists. That power is the political "bosses." An immense amount of money must be had, as a corruption fund, at each important election. It cannot be raised from the people, but it can be obtained by pandering to the railroad interest. And they will do it.

Now here are three powerful in-

fluences to bear on the appointing power. One of them already corrupted, by the interest they have at stake; the other two sifting and wriggling to be corrupted. But where is the influence on the side of justice? Who will labor to secure the appointment of pure, high-minded commissioners? Not a soul.

The farmers, mechanics, business men in general, the producers and consumers of the nation, would have no more influence in filling this board than they have in appointing ministers to foreign courts, or in killing the supreme bench.

It needs no prophet to foretell that such a board would be constituted to suit the monopolists. What a mockery of justice, and what an insult to the people it would be, to create a court to try the monopolies for outrages on the public, and that court from the very nature of its organization, to be composed of the tools of these monopolies.

While we need laws to suppress wrongs of this class, let them be enacted by congress, and violations of these laws be tried by the courts we have. We need no new legislative body, chosen by railroad influence, to fix charges upon transportation, to legislate on "pooling," "discriminations" and extorting plunder from the public on watered stock. Congress can enact laws to suppress, by punishing these outrages, as well as it can to suppress and punish any other offenses against the public welfare.

It is all both that congress cannot control the villainies of a few thousand soulless alycheks, whose extortions and robberies from the very necessities of the case must be done in the face of day and in defiance of the public.

Let congress enact stringent laws against these crimes, accompanied with heavy penalties on the officers that fail to execute the laws, and if there is a show of continued resistance on the part of the offenders, let the military, with bristling bayonets and belted with cartridges, be rushed to suppress the resistance, with the same rapidity and the same jubilant discharge of duty that is manifested by high officials, when laboring men, on a strike for bread, in their aroused passions overstep the bounds of law.

It is this overstep of our government to punish railroad officials for wrongs inflicted upon the people, as easily as to punish their employees, who madly rush to lawless acts, to secure an honest compensation for their labor.

Let there be laws to punish the high handed and wide sweeping villainies of the rich monopolist as well as the crimes of the workmen, committed while frenzied by blooded outcries. If the latter must look through prison gates on the world, where he was willing to bend in unremitting toil to secure a bare subsistence, certainly there should be law to punish the wretch, who, with hoarded millions of plunder secured, yet with insatiable greed, robs the producers of their profits and the hungry of their bread. He too, should view the world through prison gratings. View it as some ferocious beast that looks out on the assembled thousand at a menagerie, caged for the good of society, caged to protect the rights and property of others.

But will this commission system protect the public? Not in the least. The commission acting as a legislature to-day, would pass over in silence or, if they noticed these outrages on society, they would so weave the web of their law out of such windy and conflicting words, with a word of such tangled "conditions" and "provisions" that the best lawyers in the land would swear that they could not tell whether it was a State Journal editorial or a conundrum at a minstrel side show. And when the commission sat as judges and jurors (for, contrary to the spirit of our constitution both powers are combined), do you suppose they would convict with a suitable punishment a corporation with a suitable punishment would ever be obtained? An acquittal, or a conviction, it would be tempered to a reprimand by the court as a punishment, and to make that reprimand more palatable, it would be given by the railroad court to the railroad offender over bottles of champagne, and that would be the ultimatum of the punishment. This commission system would be the crowning injury of years of injurious legislation on railroad questions. It would organize the railroad interest by congressional sanction into an empire, with its own legislature, and its own judiciary, and dependent on the outside government for nothing, except the loan of marshals, sheriffs, etc., to execute the laws. If the people are awake to the danger, they should protest against this system.

We are confident that congress will favor it, if not startled back by the denunciations of their constituents. Send in protests to them, and appeal to the president to stand by the people. He dare veto improper bills and his sympathies are with the public.

W. D.

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